

And Jesus Said Parables in Song

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And Jesus Said

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Introduction

*A rich man plans to build bigger barns
for all his wealth, and God comes to him saying,
“You fool! Your life ends tonight.”*

*The Lord comes in glory to sort people
as sheep and goats are sorted,
and the goats say, “Who? Us?”—but so do the sheep.*

These are just two of Jesus’ parables, from Luke 12:13–21 and Matthew 25:31–46. Confrontational, vivid, memorable, Jesus’ parables are some of his best known words. The stories of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, for example, have given phrases to the English language. People may call someone a “good Samaritan” or say, “the prodigal returns,” without knowing the biblical roots of what they are saying. In the church, many other parables are also well known: bright pictures come to mind when we hear “the house upon the rock” or “Lazarus and the rich man.”

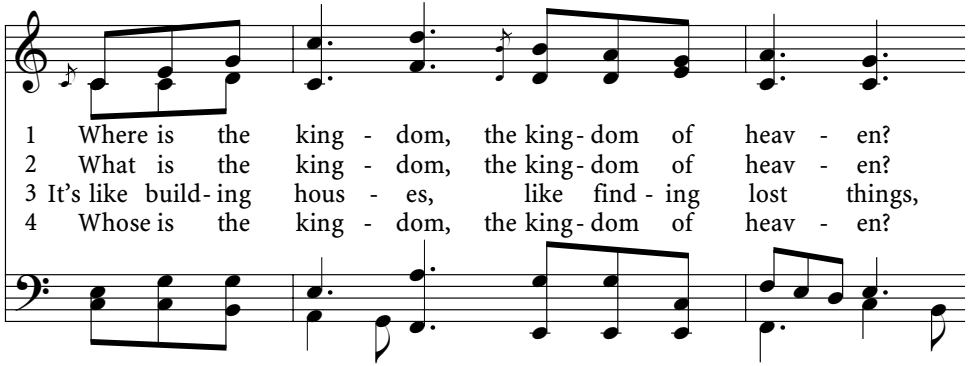
The parables do some theological heavy lifting. But they do it in the language of story, and with concrete images: seeds and stones and weeds; a lost sheep, a lost coin, a lost son.

Good stories can be read over and over. We enjoy repeating what has already pleased or touched or provoked us. But we are also surprised by what we had not noticed before, and by ideas and feelings the story did not trigger before. That’s how it is with the parables. We are not done with them—we are far from done with them!—after one reading, or one sermon, or one hymn.

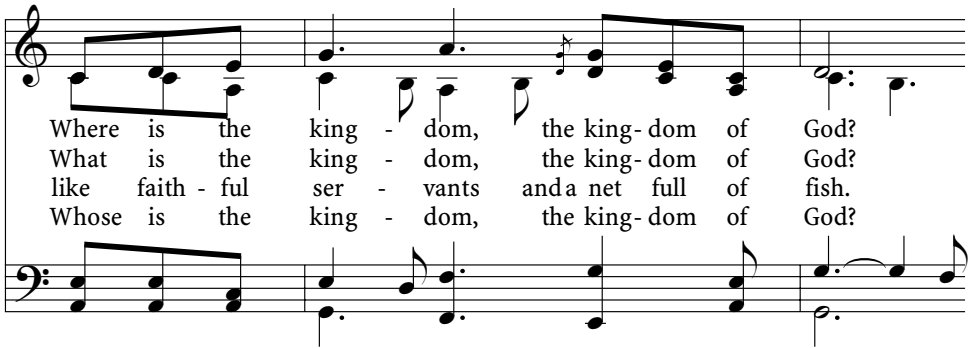
There do not seem to be a lot of standard hymns on the parables. The widespread use now of the *Revised Common Lectionary*, which calls for each of more than two dozen parables to be read every three years, has invited the writing of more. With resources such as the hymns presented here, the parables proclaimed in scripture reading and sermon are lifted into song, helping us to understand them even more deeply. It is our hope that this book helps many to sing the stories taught by Jesus.

—Richard Leach and David P. Schaap, November 2008

Where Is the Kingdom 1



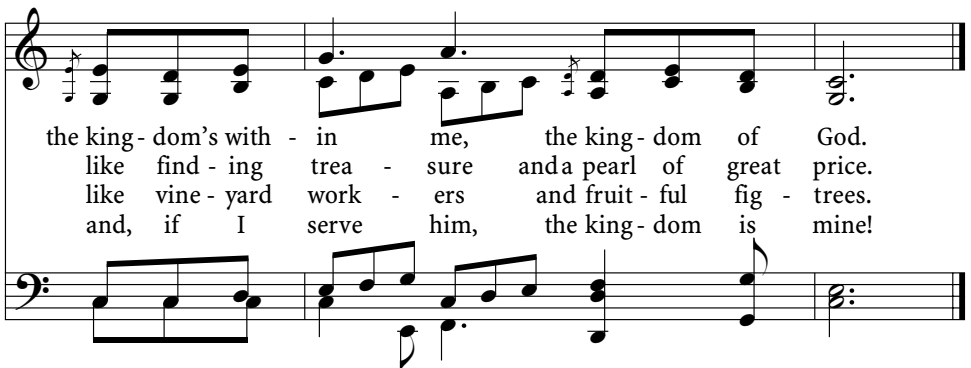
1 Where is the king - dom, the king - dom of heav - en?
 2 What is the king - dom, the king - dom of heav - en?
 3 It's like build - ing hous - es, like find - ing lost things,
 4 Whose is the king - dom, the king - dom of heav - en?



Where is the king - dom, the king - dom of God?
 What is the king - dom, the king - dom of God?
 like faith - ful ser - vants and a net full of fish.
 Whose is the king - dom, the king - dom of God?



The king - dom's be - hind me, the king - dom's be - fore me,
 It's like those young wom - en with oil in their lan - terns;
 It's like feasts at wed - dings, seeds grown to har - vest,
 Christ's is the king - dom, the Fa - ther has given it;



the king - dom's with - in me, the king - dom of God.
 like find - ing trea - sure and a pearl of great price.
 like vine - yard work - ers and fruit - ful fig - trees.
 and, if I serve him, the king - dom is mine!

Text: Rae E. Whitney, 1978.

Music: Gaelic melody, arr. Jeffrey Rickard.

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Irregular
BUNESSAN

2 Go Worship at Emmanuel's Feet

1 Go wor - ship at Em - man - uel's feet, be - hold in
 2 Is Christ a cloud? He knows our pain, and ris - es
 3 Is Christ a li - on? He will roar, to call his
 4 Is Christ a wom - an with a broom? She sweeps the

Christ what won - ders meet. No sin - gle word will
 to bring heal - ing rain. Is Christ a wind from
 own from ev - ery shore. Is Christ the lamb who
 cor - ners of the room, and calls her neigh - bors

e'er ex - press his worth, his glo - ry, or his grace.
 warm - er land? He brings the heat of God's com - mand.
 bears our sin? Then let for - giv - en life be - gin!
 in with joy, when she has found her miss - ing coin.

5 Is Christ a woman making bread?
 The flour and the yeast are wed.
 A little yeast is all it takes
 to leaven every loaf she makes.

6 As near as sunlight, far as stars,
 past every praising word of ours:
 the beauties we can never trace,
 till we see Jesus face to face.

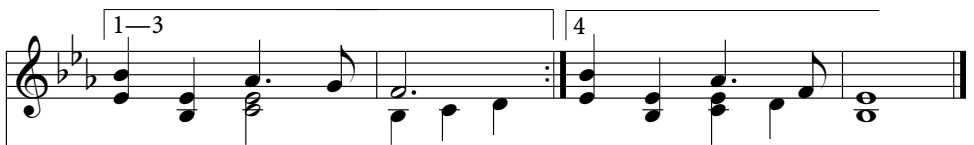
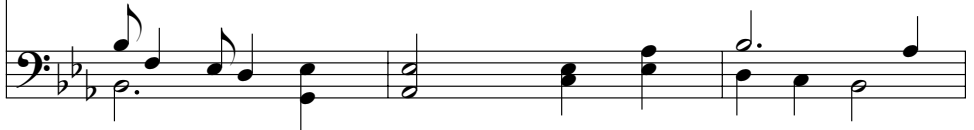
I Built My House on Rock 3

Unison

1 I built my house on rock; it stands so firm and
 2 I built my house on sand; it last - ed but a
 3 Is my faith built on rock? Or is it built on
 4 I've built my faith on Christ, my Sav - ior and my



sure; though winds beat hard and long, my
 day, for floods beat hard and long, and
 sand? When doubts beat hard and long, on
 Lord; though storms beat hard and long, I



home re - mains se - cure.
 washed my home a - way.
 what does my faith stand?

trust his liv - ing Word.



4 Building on the Rock Is Slow

1 Build - ing on the rock is slow; build-ing on the sand is
 2 Learn - ing wis-dom, we will build. Do - ing jus - tice, we will
 3 Prais - ing Je - sus, we will build. Lov - ing neigh-bors, we will
 4 Faith will stand up - on the rock. Hope will stand up - on the
 5 Hous - es on the rock will stand, hous - es on the sand will

fast. Hous - es built on rock will last.
 build. Show - ing mer - cy, we will build.
 build. With the Spir - it, we will build. The
 rock. Love will stand up - on the rock.
 fall, when the storm comes to them all.

work is slow, the world may mock, but we will build up - on the rock.

Deliver Us, O Lord of Truth 5

1 De - liv - er us, O Lord of Truth, from
 2 For you have taught that weight - less words are
 3 When we with bold, fa - mil - iar phrase con -
 4 Lord, help us build on sol - id rock no

speech un - backed by deed, from lives that by their
 like the shift - ing sand. When storm and flood come
 fess that you are Lord, you ask for lives whose
 floods can un - der - mine. May ac - tions fol - low

faith - less - ness de - ny our spo - ken creed.
 rag - ing in, they give no place to stand.
 faith - ful - ness sup - ports our spo - ken word.
 words we speak; let creed with deed com - bine.

6 A Sower Went Forth

Refrain A sow - er went forth to sow, he did, a
 1 Some seeds had fal - len by the road, a -
 2 Some seeds had fallen on ston - y ground, sprang
 3 Some seeds had fallen a - mong the thorns; they
 4 The sow - er watched his land be - come a

sow - er went forth to sow; and when the seeds he
 long the way they fell; soon came the birds to
 up for just a day; for lack of root and
 choked to death, you see; but oth - ers fell on
 field of liv - ing gold; the seeds that grew up -

scat - tered did grow, none of them came up
 eat them up, soon came the birds to
 too much sun, for lack of root and
 fer - tile ground, but oth - ers fell on
 on good soil, the seeds that grew up -

Text: Rae E. Whitney, 1982.

Music: Rae E. Whitney, 1982; arr. Edward Doemland, 2005.

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Irregular
SOWER

straight in a row, for some grew here, and
eat them up, soon came the birds to
too much sun, for lack of root and
fer - tile ground, but oth - ers fell on
on good soil, the seeds that grew up -

some grew there, when the sow - er went forth to sow.
eat them up, much fast - er than I can tell!
too much sun caused them to wither a - way.
fer - tile ground and brought forth plen - teous - ly.
on good soil in - creased a hun - dred - fold.